App. F. IX-4

1928-29

File No. 38/28

Previous References

Serial Nos. 206,

Preserve

Later References

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Serial Nos. 206, 15, 16

Part B for [illegible]

SUBJECT

Press Communiques issued for month ending 15th regarding the disturbances which occurred in Bangalore City

General and Revenue Secretariat | File No. of 192

Serial No.	
	Pol.No.125, dated 31st July 1928.
	To the Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident.
	Forwards for the information three copies of the two Press Communiques issued re. disturbances in Bangalore City, and also a telegraphic summary of the same.
	Pol. No.132, dated 1st Aug. 1928
	To the Secy. to the Resident.
	Forwards copies of Press Communiques
	Pol. No.137, dated 2nd Aug. 28
	To the Secy. to the Resident.
	Forwards a note on the situation in the City as reported by Dist.Magistrate.
	Pol. No.143, dated 3rd Aug. 1928.
	To the Secy. to the Resident.
	Forwards copies of Press Communiques Nos. IV, V, and VI.
	Pol. No.159, dated 5th Aug. 1928.
	To the Secy. to the Resident.
	Forwards copies of Press Com: VII
	Pol. No.161 , dated 7th Aug. 1928
	To the Secy. to the Resident.
	Forwards Communiques Nos.VII, IX, X

NOTE—Contn. Sheet.

WD 01714—GPB—30,000—18-4-28

D.O. Pol-1/25 Enclosures 3.

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C B 38-28-2

31st July 1928.

Dear Sir,

I am desired to forward herewith, for the information of the Hon'ble the Resident, two Press Communiques that have been issued regarding the disturbances which occurred yesterday in Bangalore City. A telegraphic summary of these papers is also enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

To

A. C. Lothian, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident
in Mysore, Bangalore.

OFFICE OF THE PUBLICITY OFFICER TO GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC OFFICES,

Dated, Bangalore 31st July 1928.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE. I.

The Publicity Officer is directed to publish the following communique with regard to yesterday's student disturbances :—

On the 15th June 1928, the Director of Public Instruction visited the Sultanpet Middle School to make certain enquiries in connection with the affairs of the School. He happened to notice that a pedestal on which the image of Ganapathi used to rest was empty and that an arched niche had been built of brick and mortar. On enquiry, the Head Master informed him that the image had fallen off the pedestal and had been kept inside the building for sometime and that the boys proposed to restore it to the pedestal. The Director of Public Instruction considered that the boys' homage to the image could be best paid inside the building without disturbance either to themselves or others. He accordingly asked the Head Master of the institution to place the image in one of the class rooms. He also saw several other images lying neglected in various parts of the compound and suggested that these also might be placed in the several class rooms.

No complaint of any kind was received either by the Director or by Government from the students or from the parents for over a month about this matter. A vigorous agitation was however being carried on in one or two local newspapers and subsequent events were that on the 24th. instant, the boys of the Sultanpet Middle School declined to attend the classes unless the image was restored. They went in procession in the streets of the City. On the next day, the procession was renewed and the boys committed acts of rowdyism with the object of inducing the students of various other schools to join in the strike. On the 26th, these acts were repeated and on the 27th, the boys occupied the road beside the school and completely obstructed the traffic and refused to move from their places. They remained there the whole of that night as well as on the 28th, causing great annoyance to the passers by as well as to the occupants of the houses in the neighbourhood. As mostly children of tender years were made use of for obstructing the roads, going in processions, etc., the police could not, for obvious reasons, take any action against the childern and the only course open to them was to require three leaders of the movement to give security for keeping the peace. Action was accordingly taken to this end on the morning of the 29th July. Pending further investigation, Government also decided to allow the image of Ganapathi to be placed on the pedestal and this was done on the evening of the 29th. It was hoped that the boys would return to their normal life and attend the schools. To their disappointment, however, the Government found that the pupils of most Educational Institutions of the City left their work on the 30th and moved about in large numbers demanding the release of the three leaders referred to above against whom security proceedings had been instituted and who refused to give bail or even their own recognisances, but preferred to remain in jail. A large number of boys surrounded the Central Jail where these men were kept in custody; another large crowd went into Carlton House, the official residence of the Dewan, while a third batch of students came to the Secretariat buildings. The behaviour of the boys in these three places was exceedingly rowdy. They broke windows, doors, uprooted plants and flowers, threw stones freely and showed generally an utter disregard of law and order. The situation required that the police should be given assistance to maintain order and the military had therefore

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to be sent for. They dispersed the students from the Dewan's residence and the Central Jail. The students thus dispersed, added to the crowd in front of the Public Offices and made a huge and rowdy demonstration. All public work was absolutely at a standstill and in spite of the most patient endeavours on the part of the police, to get the students to disperse quietly, they refused to do so. A small detachment of six sowars come first to disperse the students, but that was insufficient. Then a detachment of 40 horses came to the spot and were awaiting orders as to the action to be taken by them. While the matter was at this stage, the crowd, which by now, had attracted a considerable body of rowdy element, armed themselves with large quantities of road metal lying by the side of the road and began to hurl them at the horses and the sowars. The horses got frightened and in the scramble that followed, six boys and two grown-up men were hurt, but none of them seriously. They were promptly attended to at the Victoria Hospital and sent home. As regards the Sowars, on the other hand, a large number of them, about 25 to 30 suffered injuries and 6 of them were seriously injured. One of them, it is understood, is lying unconscious.

Government regret the unfortunate incident, but in the circumstances, it is surprising that more serious accidents did not happen. Government have handled the situation with every sympathy, but they cannot allow lawlessness of this kind to go on unchecked. They trust that in their efforts to put an end to these disturbances quietly, they can rely upon the parents of the boys as well as the leaders of public opinion to heartily co operate with the Government.

Office of the Publicity Officer to Government,
Public Offices,

Dated, Bangalore, 31st July 1928.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE–II.

The communique issued this morning about the students' disturbances describe the situation until about 6-30 P.M. on the 30th. In this communique, Government desire to give publicity to the incidents which occurred in the course of last night. The three persons against whom security proceedings had been instituted and who had at first refused to give bail or other security, changed their minds late in the afternoon and furnished security to the City Magistrate, and they were released. They seem to have been carried in procession to the Sultanpet School where puja was offered to the image of Ganapathi. So far the proceedings were perfectly peaceful. Unfortunately however, late in the night, some violent speeches calculated to rouse communal feelings are reported to have been made and this led to a free fight between the crowd which consisted mostly of Hindus, and the inhabitants of the area consisting largely of Mahammadans. The fight was soon put down: and no injuries of a serious character were sustained. Though a large number of persons (about 120) sustained injuries the injury received in no case was serious. The disturbance was over by about 11.30 P.M. The rest of the night was peaceful. The Police and the Military have the position in hand. An independent enquiry by a Magistrate has been ordered in regard to the occurrences of last night.

To allay the various rumours which are being spread by mischievous agitators, Government wish to emphatically assure the public that there has not been a single case of death. Nor has there been so far any firing by the Police, the Military or private persons.

(6)

D.O. Pol. 132. dated. 1-8-1928.

CB 38-28-3.

Dear Mr.Lothian,

I am sending herewith three copies of the Press Communique issued to-day regarding the situation in Bangalore City. The latest report is that everything is quiet.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Secretary.

P.S.- Two copies of Press Communiques Nos.1 and 2 issued yesterday are also enclosed.

(Intd.) N.M.
1-8-28.

A.C.Lothian, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Hon'ble the
Resident in Mysore.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,
Bangalore, 1st August 1928.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

III

Some local newspapers have been publishing false and mischievous statements regarding the recent unfortunate disturbances in Bangalore City, with comments which would not have deserved notice were it not for the effect they might produce, if uncontradicted, on minds temporarily thrown out of balance by wild rumours.

The public are requested not to give credence to sensational untruths however confidently asserted. Such untruths, while they may cater to a temporary craving for excitement, are calculated to do lasting harm by creating needless discord among fellow citizens who have to live together in neighbourly harmony.

The correct facts relating to this matter are given in two Press Communiques which have been published yesterday, and exact information will continue to be furnished to the public in the same way so long as the situation makes it necessary.

Government would emphatically assure the public that the situation is well in hand, and that there is no possible occasion for anxiety, and that they would welcome the co-operation of every well-meaning and public spirited citizen in contradicting and setting at rest the various wide rumours started and circulated by irresponsible persons.

W D 428—GPB—300—3-8-28.

2nd August 1928.

D.O.No. Poc 137 — 38-28-4
— 2s 3 copies

Dear Mr. Lothian,

I send herewith three copies of a note on the situation in the City as reported by the District Magistrate at 12 noon to-day.

Yours sincerely,

MM

To

A. C. Lothian, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Hon'ble the
Secretary to the Resident in Mysore,
Bangalore.

Note on the situation in the Bangalore City.

2nd August 1928.

...

All shops in the City were opened yesterday morning and business is proceeding as usual. No disturbances have taken place since ~~Tuesday~~ Monday night. The situation is normal.

Copy to Dy: Comr. B'lore,
I. G. P:

D.O. pol. no. 143 Encl. 2 3rd August 1928.

CB 38-28-5

Dear Mr. Lothian,

I am sending herewith three copies each of the Press Communiques No. IV, V and VI issued regarding the situation in Bangalore City.

Yours sincerely,

To

A. C. Lothian, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident
in Mysore, Bangalore.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

Dated, Bangalore, 3rd August 1928.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE—VI.

The situation in Bangalore is quite normal. Business is going on as usual. The precautionary measures adopted by the District Magistrate such as the prohibition of the gathering of crowds or the making of speeches are however being continued

The inquiry by the Magistrate is going on and any one who is in a position to give any information based on personal knowledge may present himself before the Magistrate.

No more Press Communiques will be issued as the present situation does not call for them.

D1401

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

Bangalore, 1st August 1928.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

IV

The Publicity Officer is directed to publish for general information the following facts supplied by the Officer in charge of the Victoria Hospital, Bangalore, in respect of the patients injured during the recent disturbances:—

The total number of cases treated in the hospital from 4 P.M. on the 30th July 1928 was 106. All of them were injuries of a minor nature except three. One was a case of penetrating wound of the chest and the other two were cases of fracture of the leg.

WD 428—GPB—200—3-8-28

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT
Bangalore, 2nd August 1928.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

V

The situation in Bangalore is normal. There has been no disturbance of any kind since Tuesday morning. Shops have re-opened and business is going on as usual.

The Publicity Officer is directed to contradict once again the false rumour that people were fired at and that several persons died or are in a serious condition. There has been no firing whatever, nor has there been a single death.

WD 428—G P B—200—3-8-28.

6th August 1928.

D.O.-pol. 159 Encl. 3. C B 38-28-6.

Dear Mr. Lothian,

I send herewith three copies of the Press Communique - VII issued to-day.

Yours sincerely,

To

A. C. Lothian, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore,
Bangalore.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

Dated, Bangalore, 6th August 1928.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE–VII.

Government propose to appoint a Committee consisting of official and non-official members to examine the origin and causes of the recent disturbances at Bangalore and to suggest measures for the prevention of such incidents in future. The Committee will begin its work as soon as the Magisterial investigation, now in progress, is concluded.

A second Committee, also consisting of official and non-official members, will be appointed to examine the causes of the recent strikes among students and to propose measures to improve discipline in schools and prevent strikes in future.

The names of the members of the two Committees and the terms of reference will be shortly announced.

MR. N. MADHAVA RAO,
Chief Secretary to Government.

D.O. pol. no. 161

CHIEF SECRETARIAT.

Dated, Bangalore, 7th August 1928.

Dear Mr. Lothian,

I send herewith three copies of the each

Press Communique ~~No. VIII~~ × issued yesterday.

Three Nos: VIII, ~~IX~~, ~~X~~

Yours sincerely,

M. A. Rama Rao

To

A. C. Lothian, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Hon'ble
the Resident in Mysore,
Bangalore.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

Dated, Bangalore, 6th August 1928.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE—VIII.

The statement made in the letter of "A Parent" published in the Mysore Patriot of 4th August 1928 to the effect that "the order of the removal of Ganesha from the school to a room in it" was made by Mr.K.Matthan, is totally untrue and wholly without foundation. The question of the removal of the Ganesha idol did not arise when Mr. Matthan was Inspector General of Education.

D1407

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

Dated, Bangalore, 6th August 1928.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE–IX.

The statement contained in the *New India* of the 3rd August 1928 under the heading "Bangalore Students' Strike and After" that the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. S. Hiriannaiya, went to Mysore on being summoned to report the situation personally to His Highness the Maharaja, is totally false.

D1408

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

Dated, Bangalore, 6th August 1928.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE–X.

The attention of Government has been drawn to the editorial article in the "Swarajya" dated the 4th August 1928 on the Bangalore students' disturbances. The article contains a number of incorrect statements, some of which Government wish to contradict in this Communique.

The Government have already, in their Communique No.1, given a brief history of the facts relating to the Ganesha incident and they do not therefore desire to refer to the subject again.

As regards the statement made in the article about the three persons who are described in it as being the leaders of the students, their detention was not on account of the part they took in the strike, but on account of their refusal to give bail or even their own recognisances in the security proceedings which had been instituted against them. They subsequently gave the security demanded of them and were released. The detention and the release were in the hands of the Magistracy.

Regarding the statements made in the article that "mounted lancers fell upon the school children, chased them when they fled in terror and panic and are reported to have perpetrated acts of outrageous violence on the victims", the statements are absolutely false. The Government have, in the first Communique issued by them, given the actual facts, viz., that there was no such charge as is described above and that the confusion which occurred and the wounds which were caused to a few students were the result of wholesale pelting of stones on the sowars' horses.

Regarding the statements that "shots were fired" and "that there should have been a few deaths," Government have already stated that, so far as they are aware, there has been no shooting whatever and that there have been no deaths or gun-shot wounds. They desire to repeat these statements once again.

There is no panic whatever in the State. Conditions have become normal.

Government have already ordered an investigation into the whole matter by a Magistrate; and further, they are also ordering a comprehensive enquiry by a Committee consisting of official and non-official members.

It is a matter for deep regret to Government that a newspaper published outside the State should think it its duty to give currency to inaccurate statements of a sensational character when Government are doing their best to give the public what they believe to be the actual facts of the case.

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27th August 1928.

Dear Mr. Lothian,

I send herewith three copies of Press Communique No.XI issued on the 25th August 1928.

Yours sincerely,

To

A. C. Lothian, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident
in Mysore, Bangalore.

OFFICE OF THE PUBLICITY OFFICER TO GOVERNMENT,
PUBLIC OFFICES.
Dated Bangalore, 25th August 1928.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

XI

In their Communique No. II dated the 31st July 1928 on the Bangalore Disturbances, Government said that there had been no firing by the Police, the Military or private persons. In respect of the Police and the Military, the statement was based on the direct knowledge possessed by Government, and in respect of the private persons, on the most careful inquiries made and the best information available at the time.

It was twelve days after the incidents described in the Communique of 31st July 1928 that Government heard for the first time that a boy suffering from a bullet wound was admitted to one of the Hospitals in the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore. On inquiry it was learnt that an X-ray photograph of the boy disclosed the existence, in the neighbourhood of the left shoulder, of a foreign substance resembling a bullet and that the boy was to be operated upon for the removal of this substance in a day or two. An operation was also performed on the boy but the substance could not be located. The boy is still in the Hospital and is reported to be doing well.

Government waited for the operation so as to be in a position to make a definite statement regarding the nature of the wound received by the boy. But this, however, has to await another operation, should it be considered necessary by the Hospital authorities. In the meanwhile, Government desire to give publicity to these facts so that the public may have an exact knowledge of the matter.

R. RANGA RAO,
Publicity Officer to Government.

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Office of the Publicity Officer to Government,
Public Offices,

Dated, Bangalore, 7th September 1928.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.–XII.

The following appeared in the SWARAJYA dated the 4th September 1928:–

"..... A bird whispers in our ears that some bullets were found missing the other day from the Government Military Stores. Is my bird correct. And secondly, is the bullet found in the shoulder of the victimised Chandraraj among the lot said to be missing? And thirdly can any-body enlighten us as to how the bullet found its way into the assasin's hand that shot the boy?....."

With reference to the above, the Chief Commandant, Mysore State Troops, reports that all ammunition in the Military Stores was checked and no rounds either of Ball or Buckshot were missing.

R. RANGA RAO,
Publicity Officer to the Government of Mysore.

D1472

Office of the Publicity Officer to Government,
Public Offices,

Dated, Bangalore, 11th September 1928.

PRESS NOTE.

It is a matter of deep regret to the Govenment of Mysore that a leading paper like the "Times of India" should give currency to rumours of a false and malicious nature in its columns. The report of its Special Correspondent, appearing in its issue of the 10th instant, to the effect that there was a serious attack made by Mohammadan hooligans on Saturday the 8th instant, on the Sri Ranganathaswami Temple at Seringapatam, involving serious injuries to the temple priest and several others, and that the Deputy Commissioner was also hurt, that Reserve Police were despatched from Bangalore to the scene of occurrence and that 40 arrests were made, is entirely baseless. There was no such attack by Mohammadans, no priest or other persons were injured, no police were despatched from Bangalore nor were any arrests made. Conditions at Seringapatam are perfectly normal.

R. RANGA RAO,
Publicity Officer to the Government of Mysore.

D1475